THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The quantity of rice, including paddy in terms of rice, procured by the Food Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh in the last six months (February, 2005 to July, 2005) was 24.22 lakh tonnes.

(b) A further quantity of 75,000 tonnes of rice is expected to be procured in Andhra Pradesh by the FCI in the rest of Kharif Marketing Season which ends in September, 2005.

(c) FCI is storing rice in all the 23 Revenue Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The rent paid for private godowns for 2004-05 was Rs. 12.89 crore (provisional).

(e) The expenses on storage incurred is being reduced, by the Food Corporation of India, through dehiring of godowns not required, whenever feasible.

Consumer Welfare Fund

1303. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much Consumer Welfare Fund was available as on 30th June, 2005 and its utilization during the last five years from 2000-01 to 2004-05;

(b) whether Government are planning to increase the ceiling on grant allocations to consumer organizations; and

(c) whether Government intend to simplify the operational procedures of Consumer Welfare Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As on 30th June, 2005 an amount of Rs. 68.89 crores has been credited to the Consumer Welfare Fund. The utilization of funds during the last five years is as under:

(Rs. in thousand)

Year	Funds Utilized during the year
2000-01	74,04

2001-02	1,15,83
2002-03	3,52,85
2003-04	3,32,56
2004-05	17,58,21

(b) and (c) The Government Welfare Fund has been decentralized. The State/UT Governments have been asked to set up their own State Consumer Welfare Fund for which seed money at the ratio of 50:50 (Centre:State) is given to the State/UT Govts. for North East and other special category states the ratio is 90:10 (Centre:State) as one time grant. The allocation to the State Government is proportionate to the number of districts in the State/UTs. The procedure for release of funds to the State Govts. is very simple.

Inclusion of families in BPL list

1304. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters for inclusion of a family in B.P.L. list;

(b) the number of families listed, so far, under B.P.L. category, State-wise; and

(c) whether there is any system to review the list from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) At the beginning of each Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments conducts a Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census in all the States/UTs except Delhi and Chandigarh with a view to identify households living below the poverty line. An Expert Group was set up to advise on the criteria, methodology and survey Schedules for BPL Census (2002). The Expert Group submittted its report in September, 2002. The Report has recommended that thirteen scorable socio-economic indicators namely, Size group of operational holding of land, Type of house, Average availability of normal wear clothing, Food security, Sanitation, Ownership of cosumer durables, Literacy status of the highest literate adult, Status of the household in labour force, Means of Livelihood, Status of children, Type of